

IV. Remarks

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 9-10 have been amended. The above amendments and the following remarks are provided to facilitate early allowance of the currently claimed subject matter. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the abstract is objected to because it has more than 150 words. By this Amendment, the abstract is amended. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the objection to the abstract.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been revised to be more definite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In the Office Action, claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sayan et al. (USPN 6,477,569), hereinafter "Sayan." Applicant submits that the claimed subject matter is allowable for the reasons stated below.

With regarding to claims 1, 5 and 9-10, Sayan does not disclose, *inter alia*, "determining a combination of whether the resources have been held by the remote client for a period longer than a first preset threshold and whether the resources have been held by the remote client without use of the resources for a period longer than a second preset threshold[.]" as recited in

claim 1 and claimed similarly in claims 5 and 9-10. In Sayan, "[i]f the Pool Agent remains idle (i.e., not receiving any processing requests) for more than the predetermined period of time[,] the Pool Agent times out and the process terminates." (Col. 12, lines 62-64). (Parenthetical explanation added). However, Sayan does not determine whether a Pool Agent has been selected (established) for a period longer than a preset threshold. As such, Sayan does not determine whether the resources have been held by the remote client for a period longer than a first preset threshold.

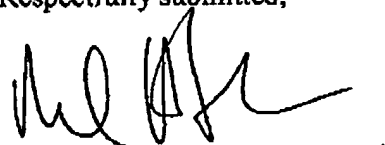
Sayan discloses an alarm that "describes the maximum number of seconds allowable to process a transaction." (Col. 8, lines 16-17). However, the alarm of Sayan is not equivalent to a preset threshold for a remote user to hold the resources, as will be illustrated below. In Sayan, a pool agent may receive more than one request for transaction from a client. (See col. 12, lines 53-54, "[a]dditional requests maybe received by the pool agent from the client.") If all the transactions requested by a client are processed within the alarms specifically set for the transactions, a pool agent of Sayan for the client can exist for a period longer than each alarm. That is, an alarm of Sayan is not a threshold for the client to hold the resources. In view of the foregoing, Sayan does not disclose, *inter alia*, determining a combination of whether the resources have been held by the remote client for a period longer than a first preset threshold and whether the resources have been held by the remote client without use of the resources for a period longer than a second preset threshold.

Claims 2-4 are dependent upon claim 1; claims 6-8 are dependent upon claim 5; and claim 11 is dependent upon claim 10. The dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reason as stated above, as well as for their own additional features.

V. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the application as presented is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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